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REMARKS

The Office Action dated July 6, 2005, and made final, has been carefully reviewed and the foregoing amendment has been made as a consequence thereof.

Claims 1-29 are now pending in this application. Claims 18-29 are withdrawn from consideration. Claims 1-17 stand rejected. Claims 2 and 14 have been canceled.

The objection to Claim 2 under 37 CFR 1.75(c) is respectfully traversed. Claim 2 has been canceled. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the objection to Claim 2 be withdrawn.

Initially, Applicants note that the present Office Action includes multiple Section 103 rejections based on multiple combinations of not less than five prior art references. Applicants respectfully submit that none of the rejections are proper rejections. Obviousness cannot be established by merely suggesting that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify or combine references. More specifically, as is well established, obviousness cannot be established by combining the teachings of the cited art to produce the claimed invention absent some teaching, suggestion, or incentive supporting the combination. None of Van Newenhizen, Morey, Badger, Hardaway or Matsumoto, considered alone or in combination, describe or suggest the claimed combination. Rather, the present Section 103 rejections appear to be based on a combination of teachings selected from multiple patents in an attempt to arrive at the claimed invention. Since there is no teaching or suggestion in the cited art of the claimed combination, the Section 103 rejection appears to be based on a hindsight reconstruction in which isolated disclosures have been picked and chosen in an attempt to deprecate the present invention. Of course, such a combination is impermissible, and for this reason alone, Applicants respectfully request that the Section 103 rejections of the presently pending claims be withdrawn.

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As the Federal Circuit has recognized, obviousness is not established merely by combining references having different individual elements of pending claims. *Ex parte Levengood*, 28 U.S.P.Q.2d 1300 (Bd. Pat. App. & Inter. 1993). MPEP 2143.01. Rather, there must be some suggestion, outside of Applicants' disclosure, in the prior art to combine such references, and a reasonable expectation of success must be both found in the prior art, and not based on Applicants' disclosure. *In re Vaeck*, 20 U.S.P.Q.2d 1436 (Fed. Cir. 1991). In the present case, neither a suggestion nor motivation to combine the prior art disclosures, nor any reasonable expectation of success has been shown.

To establish prima facie obviousness of a claimed invention, all the claim limitations must be taught or suggested by the prior art. *In re Royka*, 490 F.2d 981, 180 USPQ 580 (CCPA 1974). In the present case, the afore-mentioned references relied upon, even if combined, fail to teach all of the limitations of the presently pending claims. Specifically, none of the references describe terminating the application of rinse water at the point of saturation of the clothes.

The rejection of claim 1, 2, 4-7, 10, 11, 13-15, and 17 under 35 U.S.C. §103 (a) as being unpatentable over Van Newenhizen et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,199,127) in view of Morey (U.S. Patent No. 4,225,992) is respectfully traversed.

Van Newenhizen et al. describe a washing machine (20) having a cabinet (25) with a lid (26). The washer includes a tub (34) and a spin basket (35) defining a wash chamber. The washer also includes a mixing tank (80). The mixing tank communicates at a top end with the wash tub and at a lower end with a pump (38), a drain line (82), and a recirculation line conduit (84). The tank communicates with the drain line through a port (130) and a conduit (132), and via a three-way mixing valve (170), a three-way drain valve (166), and a drain (134). The drain valve is controlled to allow recirculating fluid flow back into the mixing tank during portions of wash and rinse cycles. During rinse cycles, fresh water is taken into the washer and then

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recirculated for a number of spray rinse cycles. During the recirculation, rinse water that drains into the tub is pumped back and reused for further rinsing before being discharged to the drain.

Morey describes a washer (10) that includes a separate continuous wash and rinse operation for small loads of garments made from synthetic fibers. The washer includes a tub (12) within a supporting structure (11). A washing basket (13) is rotatably supported within the tub. An agitator (14) is rotatably mounted within the basket. A small basket (18) is secured to the agitator. In the continuous washing and rinsing cycle, garments are washed and rinsed only in the small basket with a fresh water flow through system as opposed to a bath type wash and rinse. The water used in the wash and rinse operation does not fill the basket but rather is only enough to saturate the garment so that they are sopping wet. The water is not recirculated into the basket but is pumped to an external drain. The rate of water flow through the second basket after the clothes are saturated is equal to the rate of water being introduced into the second basket.

Claim 1 recites a method for operating a washing machine in a rinse cycle, the washing machine including a wash tub, a rotatable basket within the wash tub, the rotatable basket containing clothes to be rinsed, and a water spraying device, the method including "rotating the basket at a first rate of rotation; spraying fresh water into the basket while the basket is rotating at the first rate; terminating spraying when a saturation point of the clothes is reached; and rotating the basket at a second rate of rotation, the second rate of rotation greater than the first rate of rotation".

Neither Van Newenhizen et al. nor Morey, considered alone or in combination, describe or suggest a method as recited in Claim 1. More specifically, neither Van Newenhizen et al. nor Morey, considered alone or in combination, describe or suggest terminating spraying when a saturation point of the clothes is reached. Rather, Van Newenhizen et al. describe rinse cycles

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wherein fresh water is introduced into the washer beyond a saturation point of the clothes. Morey describes a continuous wash and rinse operation that sprays the clothes after saturation is of the clothes is reached. Accordingly, for the reasons set forth above, Claim 1 is submitted to be patentable over Van Newenhizen et al. in view of Morey.

Claims 4-7 depend from independent Claim 1. When the recitations of Claims 4-7 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 1, Applicants submit that dependent Claims 4-7 likewise are patentable over Van Newenhizen et al. in view of Morey. Claim 2 is canceled.

Claim 10 recites a method for operating a washing machine in a rinse cycle, the washing machine including a wash tub, a rotatable basket within the wash tub, the rotatable basket containing clothes to be rinsed, and the rotatable basket drivingly engaged to a multi-speed drive system, and a spraying device, the method including "driving the basket at a low speed; spraying fresh water into the basket; terminating spraying into the basket when a saturation point of the clothes is reached; and driving the basket at a high speed."

Neither Van Newenhizen et al. nor Morey, considered alone or in combination, describe or suggest a method as recited in Claim 10. More specifically, neither Van Newenhizen et al. nor Morey, considered alone or in combination, describe or suggest terminating spraying into the basket when a saturation point of the clothes is reached. Rather, Van Newenhizen et al. describe rinse cycles wherein fresh water is introduced into the washer beyond a saturation point of the clothes. Morey describes a continuous wash and rinse operation that sprays the clothes after saturation is of the clothes is reached. Accordingly, for the reasons set forth above, Claim 10 is submitted to be patentable over Van Newenhizen et al. in view of Morey.

Claims 11 and 13 depend from independent Claim 10. When the recitations of Claims 11 and 13 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 10, Applicants submit that

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dependent Claims 11 and 13 likewise are patentable over Van Newenhizen et al. in view of Morey. Claim 14 is canceled.

Claim 15 recites a method for operating a washing machine in a rinse cycle, the washing machine including a wash tub, a rotatable clothes basket within the wash tub, the rotatable clothes basket containing clothes to be rinsed, and the rotatable clothes basket drivingly engaged to a multi-speed drive system, a spraying device, and a drain assembly, the method including "rotating the basket at a low speed with the drive system; spraying fresh water into the basket with the spraying device; saturating clothes in the basket; terminating spraying into the basket; and rotating the basket at a high speed with the drive system".

Neither Van Newenhizen et al. nor Morey, considered alone or in combination, describe or suggest a method as recited in Claim 15. More specifically, neither Van Newenhizen et al. nor Morey, considered alone or in combination, describe or suggest saturating clothes in the basket and then terminating spraying into the basket. Rather, Van Newenhizen et al. describe rinse cycles wherein fresh water is introduced into the washer beyond a saturation point of the clothes. Morey describes a continuous wash and rinse operation that sprays the clothes after saturation is of the clothes is reached. Accordingly, for the reasons set forth above, Claim 15 is submitted to be patentable over Van Newenhizen et al. in view of Morey.

Claim 17 depends from independent Claim 15. When the recitations of Claim 17 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 15, Applicants submit that dependent Claim 17 likewise is patentable over Van Newenhizen et al. in view of Morey.

For at least the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully request that the §103 rejection of Claims 1, 2, 4-7, 10, 11, 13-15, and 17 be withdrawn.

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The rejection of Claims 3, 12, and 16 under 35 U.S.C. §103 (a) as being unpatentable over Van Newenhizen et al. in view of Morey and further in view of Matsumoto et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,768,730) is respectfully traversed.

Van Newenhizen et al. and Morey are described above. Matsumoto et al. describe a drum type washing machine including a drum (2) that is rotatably supported in a water tank (3), a drive unit (4) for rotating the drum, and a plurality of injection nozzles (5) for injecting wash or rinse liquid into the drum. The nozzles are operated by an injection unit (6) that includes a circulating pipe (31) and an air intake pipe (48). Air is mixed with cleaning liquid to create a pulsed injection during the wash cycle. Matsumoto et al. do not give a detailed example of a rinse step. Reference is made to a rinse step including "an operation identical to that in the washing step".

Claim 3 depends from Claim 1 which recites a method for operating a washing machine in a rinse cycle, the washing machine including a wash tub, a rotatable basket within the wash tub, the rotatable basket containing clothes to be rinsed, and a water spraying device, the method including "rotating the basket at a first rate of rotation; spraying fresh water into the basket while the basket is rotating at the first rate; terminating spraying when a saturation point of the clothes is reached; and rotating the basket at a second rate of rotation, the second rate of rotation greater than the first rate of rotation".

None of Van Newenhizen et al, Morey, and Matsumoto et al., considered alone or in combination, describe or suggest a method as recited in Claim 1. More specifically, none of Van Newenhizen et al., Morey, and Matsumoto et al., considered alone or in combination, describe or suggest terminating spraying when a saturation point of the clothes is reached. Rather, Van Newenhizen et al. describe rinse cycles wherein fresh water is introduced into the washer beyond a saturation point of the clothes. Morey describes a continuous wash and rinse operation that

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sprays the clothes after saturation is of the clothes is reached. Mastumoto et al. give no detailed example of a rinse cycle. Accordingly, for the reasons set forth above, Claim 1 is submitted to be patentable over Van Newenhizen et al. in view of Morey, and further in view of Matsumoto et al.

Claim 3 depends from independent Claim 1. When the recitations of Claim 3 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 1, Applicants submit that dependent Claim 3 likewise is patentable over Van Newenhizen et al. in view of Morey and further in view of Matsumoto.

Claim 12 depends from Claim 10 which recites a method for operating a washing machine in a rinse cycle, the washing machine including a wash tub, a rotatable basket within the wash tub, the rotatable basket containing clothes to be rinsed, and the rotatable basket drivingly engaged to a multi-speed drive system, and a spraying device, the method including "driving the basket at a low speed; spraying fresh water into the basket; terminating spraying into the basket when a saturation point of the clothes is reached; and driving the basket at a high speed."

None of Van Newenhizen et al., Morey, and Matsumoto et al., considered alone or in combination, describe or suggest a method as recited in Claim 10. More specifically, none of Van Newenhizen et al., nor Morey, considered alone or in combination, describe or suggest terminating spraying into the basket when a saturation point of the clothes is reached. Rather, Van Newenhizen et al. describe rinse cycles wherein fresh water is introduced into the washer beyond a saturation point of the clothes. Morey describes a continuous wash and rinse operation that sprays the clothes after saturation is of the clothes is reached. Mastumoto et al. give no detailed example of a rinse cycle. Accordingly, for the reasons set forth above, Claim 10 is submitted to be patentable over Van Newenhizen et al. in view of Morey and further in view of Matsumoto et al.

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Claim 12 depends from independent Claim 10. When the recitations of Claim 12 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 10, Applicants submit that dependent Claim 12 likewise is patentable over Van Newenhizen et al. in view of Morey and further in view of Matsumoto et al.

Claim 16 depends from Claim 15 which recites a method for operating a washing machine in a rinse cycle, the washing machine including a wash tub, a rotatable clothes basket within the wash tub, the rotatable clothes basket containing clothes to be rinsed, and the rotatable clothes basket drivingly engaged to a multi-speed drive system, a spraying device, and a drain assembly, the method including "rotating the basket at a low speed with the drive system; spraying fresh water into the basket with the spraying device; saturating clothes in the basket; terminating spraying into the basket; and rotating the basket at a high speed with the drive system".

None of Van Newenhizen et al., Morey, and Matsumoto et al., considered alone or in combination, describe or suggest a method as recited in Claim 15. More specifically, none of Van Newenhizen et al., Morey, and Matsumoto et al., considered alone or in combination, describe or suggest saturating clothes in the basket and then terminating spraying into the basket. Rather, Van Newenhizen et al. describe rinse cycles wherein fresh water is introduced into the washer beyond a saturation point of the clothes. Morey describes a continuous wash and rinse operation that sprays the clothes after saturation of the clothes is reached. Matsumoto et al. give no detailed example of a rinse cycle. Accordingly, for the reasons set forth above, Claim 15 is submitted to be patentable over Van Newenhizen et al. in view of Morey and further in view of Matsumoto et al.

Claim 16 depends from independent Claim 15. When the recitations of Claim 16 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 15, Applicants submit that dependent

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Claim 16 likewise is patentable over Van Newenhizen et al. in view of Morey and further in view of Matsumoto et al.

For at least the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully request that the §103 rejection of Claims 3, 12, and 16 be withdrawn.

The rejection of Claims 8-9 under 35 U.S.C. §103 (a) as being unpatentable over Van Newenhizen et al. in view of Morey and further in view of Badger et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,737,790) is respectfully traversed.

Van Newenhizen et al. and Morey are described above. Badger et al. describe a washing machine (1) having a cabinet (2), a hinged lid (3), and a control panel (4). Hot and cold water valves (13) and (14) provide for the delivery of water to a spray nozzle at the upper rim of a spin tub (6) positioned within a stationary water container (5). A spray rinse cycle is described wherein a first "sense rinse" is performed to determine a Sensed Water Volume (SWV) defined as a volume of water required to saturate the clothes plus a volume of water which the clothes load lies in. Multiple subsequent rinse phases are then performed using a fraction of the SWV. Water is centrifugally extracted between the rinse phases.

Claims 8 and 9 depend from Claim 1 which recites a method for operating a washing machine in a rinse cycle, the washing machine including a wash tub, a rotatable basket within the wash tub, the rotatable basket containing clothes to be rinsed, and a water spraying device, the method including "rotating the basket at a first rate of rotation; spraying fresh water into the basket while the basket is rotating at the first rate; terminating spraying when a saturation point of the clothes is reached; and rotating the basket at a second rate of rotation, the second rate of rotation greater than the first rate of rotation".

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None of Van Newenhizen et al, Morey, and Badger et al., considered alone or in combination, describe or suggest a method as recited in Claim 1. More specifically, none of Van Newenhizen et al., Morey, and Badger et al., considered alone or in combination, describe or suggest terminating spraying when a saturation point of the clothes is reached. Rather, Van Newenhizen et al. describe rinse cycles wherein fresh water is introduced into the washer beyond a saturation point of the clothes. Morey describes a continuous wash and rinse operation that sprays the clothes after saturation is of the clothes is reached. Badger et al. describe rinse cycles that use a fraction of a sensed water volume. Accordingly, for the reasons set forth above, Claim 1 is submitted to be patentable over Van Newenhizen et al. in view of Morey, and further in view of Badger et al.

Claims 8 and 9 depend from independent Claim 1. When the recitations of Claims 8 and 9 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 1, Applicants submit that dependent Claims 8 and 9 likewise are patentable over Van Newenhizen et al. in view of Morey and further in view of Badger et al.

For at least the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully request that the §103 rejection of Claims 8 and 9 be withdrawn.

The rejection of claim 1, 2, 4-7, 10, 11, 13-15, and 17 under 35 U.S.C. §102 (b) as being unpatentable over Hardaway et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,233,718) in view of Morey is respectfully traversed.

Morey is described above. Hardaway et al. describe a horizontal axis washing machine (20) having a cabinet (25) with a door (26). The washer includes a tub (34) and a spin basket (35) defining a wash chamber. The washer also includes a mixing tank (80). The mixing tank communicates at a top end with the wash tub and at a lower end with a pump (38), a drain line (82), and a recirculation line conduit (84). The tank communicates with the drain line through a

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three-way mixing valve (170) and a three drain valve (166). The drain valve is controlled to allow recirculating fluid flow back into the mixing tank during portions of wash and rinse cycles. During rinse cycles, fresh water is taken into the washer and then reused in recirculation loops before being discharged to the drain. Rinse water is sprayed until a water level control is satisfied.

Claim 1 recites a method for operating a washing machine in a rinse cycle, the washing machine including a wash tub, a rotatable basket within the wash tub, the rotatable basket containing clothes to be rinsed, and a water spraying device, the method including "rotating the basket at a first rate of rotation; spraying fresh water into the basket while the basket is rotating at the first rate; terminating spraying when a saturation point of the clothes is reached; and rotating the basket at a second rate of rotation, the second rate of rotation greater than the first rate of rotation".

Neither Hardaway et al. nor Morey, considered alone or in combination, describe or suggest a method as recited in Claim 1. More specifically, neither Hardaway et al. nor Morey, considered alone or in combination, describe or suggest terminating spraying when a saturation point of the clothes is reached. Rather, Hardaway et al. describe rinse cycles wherein rinse water is sprayed until a water level control is satisfied. Morey describes a continuous wash and rinse operation that sprays the clothes after saturation is of the clothes is reached. Accordingly, for the reasons set forth above, Claim 1 is submitted to be patentable over Hardaway et al. in view of Morey.

Claims 4-7 depend from independent Claim 1. When the recitations of Claims 4-7 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 1, Applicants submit that dependent Claims 4-7 likewise are patentable over Hardaway et al. in view of Morey. Claim 2 is canceled.

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Claim 10 recites a method for operating a washing machine in a rinse cycle, the washing machine including a wash tub, a rotatable basket within the wash tub, the rotatable basket containing clothes to be rinsed, and the rotatable basket drivingly engaged to a multi-speed drive system, and a spraying device, the method including "driving the basket at a low speed; spraying fresh water into the basket; terminating spraying into the basket when a saturation point of the clothes is reached; and driving the basket at a high speed."

Neither Hardaway et al. nor Morey, considered alone or in combination, describe or suggest a method as recited in Claim 10. More specifically, neither Hardaway et al. nor Morey, considered alone or in combination, describe or suggest terminating spraying into the basket when a saturation point of the clothes is reached. Rather, Hardaway et al. describe rinse cycles wherein rinse water is sprayed until a water level control is satisfied. Morey describes a continuous wash and rinse operation that sprays the clothes after saturation is of the clothes is reached. Accordingly, for the reasons set forth above, Claim 10 is submitted to be patentable over Hardaway et al. in view of Morey.

Claims 11 and 13 depend from independent Claim 10. When the recitations of Claims 11 and 13 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 10, Applicants submit that dependent Claims 11 and 13 likewise are patentable over Hardaway et al. in view of Morey. Claim 14 is canceled.

Claim 15 recites a method for operating a washing machine in a rinse cycle, the washing machine including a wash tub, a rotatable clothes basket within the wash tub, the rotatable clothes basket containing clothes to be rinsed, and the rotatable clothes basket drivingly engaged to a multi-speed drive system, a spraying device, and a drain assembly, the method including "rotating the basket at a low speed with the drive system; spraying fresh water into the basket

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with the spraying device; saturating clothes in the basket; terminating spraying into the basket; and rotating the basket at a high speed with the drive system”.

Neither Hardaway et al. nor Morey, considered alone or in combination, describe or suggest a method as recited in Claim 15. More specifically, neither Hardaway et al. nor Morey, considered alone or in combination, describe or suggest saturating clothes in the basket and then terminating spraying into the basket. Rather, Hardaway et al. describe rinse cycles wherein rinse water is sprayed until a water level control is satisfied. Morey describes a continuous wash and rinse operation that sprays the clothes after saturation is of the clothes is reached. Accordingly, for the reasons set forth above, Claim 15 is submitted to be patentable over Hardaway et al. in view of Morey.

Claim 17 depends from independent Claim 15. When the recitations of Claim 17 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 15, Applicants submit that dependent Claim 17 likewise is patentable over Hardaway et al. in view of Morey.

For at least the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully request that the §103 rejection of Claims 1, 2, 4-7, 10, 11, 13-15, and 17 be withdrawn.

The rejection of Claims 3, 12, and 16 under 35 U.S.C. §103 (a) as being unpatentable over Hardaway et al. in view of Morey and further in view of Matsumoto et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,768,730) is respectfully traversed.

Hardaway et al., Morey, and Matsumoto et al. are described above.

Claim 3 depends from Claim 1 which recites a method for operating a washing machine in a rinse cycle, the washing machine including a wash tub, a rotatable basket within the wash tub, the rotatable basket containing clothes to be rinsed, and a water spraying device, the method including “rotating the basket at a first rate of rotation; spraying fresh water into the basket while

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the basket is rotating at the first rate; terminating spraying when a saturation point of the clothes is reached; and rotating the basket at a second rate of rotation, the second rate of rotation greater than the first rate of rotation”.

None of Hardaway et al, Morey, and Matsumoto et al., considered alone or in combination, describe or suggest a method as recited in Claim 1. More specifically, none of Hardaway et al., Morey, and Matsumoto et al., considered alone or in combination, describe or suggest terminating spraying when a saturation point of the clothes is reached. Rather, Hardaway et al. describe rinse cycles wherein rinse water is sprayed until a water level control is satisfied. Morey describes a continuous wash and rinse operation that sprays the clothes after saturation is of the clothes is reached. Mastumoto et al. give no detailed example of a rinse cycle. Accordingly, for the reasons set forth above, Claim 1 is submitted to be patentable over Hardaway et al. in view of Morey, and further in view of Matsumoto et al.

Claim 3 depends from independent Claim 1. When the recitations of Claim 3 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 1, Applicants submit that dependent Claim 3 likewise is patentable over Hardaway et al. in view of Morey and further in view of Matsumoto.

Claim 12 depends from Claim 10 which recites a method for operating a washing machine in a rinse cycle, the washing machine including a wash tub, a rotatable basket within the wash tub, the rotatable basket containing clothes to be rinsed, and the rotatable basket drivingly engaged to a multi-speed drive system, and a spraying device, the method including “driving the basket at a low speed; spraying fresh water into the basket; terminating spraying into the basket when a saturation point of the clothes is reached; and driving the basket at a high speed.”

None of Hardaway et al., Morey, and Matsumoto et al., considered alone or in combination, describe or suggest a method as recited in Claim 10. More specifically, none of

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Hardaway et al., nor Morey, considered alone or in combination, describe or suggest terminating spraying into the basket when a saturation point of the clothes is reached. Rather, Hardaway et al. describe rinse cycles wherein rinse water is sprayed until a water level control is satisfied. Morey describes a continuous wash and rinse operation that sprays the clothes after saturation is of the clothes is reached. Mastumoto et al. give no detailed example of a rinse cycle. Accordingly, for the reasons set forth above, Claim 10 is submitted to be patentable over Hardaway et al. in view of Morey and further in view of Matsumoto et al.

Claim 12 depends from independent Claim 10. When the recitations of Claim 12 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 10, Applicants submit that dependent Claim 12 likewise is patentable over Hardaway et al. in view of Morey and further in view of Matsumoto et al.

Claim 16 depends from Claim 15 which recites a method for operating a washing machine in a rinse cycle, the washing machine including a wash tub, a rotatable clothes basket within the wash tub, the rotatable clothes basket containing clothes to be rinsed, and the rotatable clothes basket drivingly engaged to a multi-speed drive system, a spraying device, and a drain assembly, the method including "rotating the basket at a low speed with the drive system; spraying fresh water into the basket with the spraying device; saturating clothes in the basket; terminating spraying into the basket; and rotating the basket at a high speed with the drive system".

None of Hardaway et al., Morey, and Matsumoto et al., considered alone or in combination, describe or suggest a method as recited in Claim 15. More specifically, none of Hardaway et al., Morey, and Matsumoto et al., considered alone or in combination, describe or suggest saturating clothes in the basket and then terminating spraying into the basket. Rather, Hardaway et al. describe rinse cycles wherein rinse water is sprayed until a water level control is

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satisfied. Morey describes a continuous wash and rinse operation that sprays the clothes after saturation is of the clothes is reached. Mastumoto et al. give no detailed example of a rinse cycle. Accordingly, for the reasons set forth above, Claim 15 is submitted to be patentable over Hardaway et al. in view of Morey and further in view of Matsumoto et al.

Claim 16 depends from independent Claim 15. When the recitations of Claim 16 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 15, Applicants submit that dependent Claim 16 likewise is patentable over Hardaway et al. in view of Morey and further in view of Matsumoto et al.

For at least the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully request that the §103 rejection of Claims 3, 12, and 16 be withdrawn.

The rejection of Claims 8-9 under 35 U.S.C. §103 (a) as being unpatentable over Hardaway et al. in view of Morey and further in view of Badger et al. is respectfully traversed.

Hardaway et al., Morey, and Badger et al. are described above.

Claims 8 and 9 depend from Claim 1 which recites a method for operating a washing machine in a rinse cycle, the washing machine including a wash tub, a rotatable basket within the wash tub, the rotatable basket containing clothes to be rinsed, and a water spraying device, the method including "rotating the basket at a first rate of rotation; spraying fresh water into the basket while the basket is rotating at the first rate; terminating spraying when a saturation point of the clothes is reached; and rotating the basket at a second rate of rotation, the second rate of rotation greater than the first rate of rotation".

None of Hardaway et al., Morey, and Badger et al., considered alone or in combination, describe or suggest a method as recited in Claim 1. More specifically, none of Hardaway et al., Morey, and Badger et al., considered alone or in combination, describe or suggest terminating

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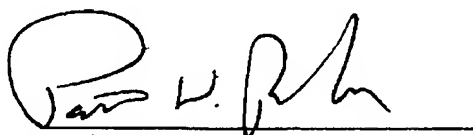
spraying when a saturation point of the clothes is reached. Rather, Hardaway et al. describe rinse cycles wherein rinse water is sprayed until a water level control is satisfied. Morey describes a continuous wash and rinse operation that sprays the clothes after saturation is of the clothes is reached. Badger et al. describe rinse cycles that use a fraction of a sensed water volume. Accordingly, for the reasons set forth above, Claim 1 is submitted to be patentable over Hardaway et al. in view of Morey, and further in view of Badger et al.

Claims 8 and 9 depend from independent Claim 1. When the recitations of Claims 8 and 9 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 1, Applicants submit that dependent Claims 8 and 9 likewise are patentable over Hardaway et al. in view of Morey and further in view of Badger et al.

For at least the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully request that the §103 rejection of Claims 8 and 9 be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, all the claims now active in this application are believed to be in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and favorable action is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully Submitted,



Patrick W. Rasche
Registration No. 37,916
ARMSTRONG TEASDALE LLP
One Metropolitan Square, Suite 2600
St. Louis, Missouri 63102-2740
(314) 621-5070